

Names and Faces



Staff Sgt. Carrie Doolen
Personnel Services Delivery

With each issue, the Air Reserve Personnel Center would like to introduce the members of the ARPC Team who help customers everyday.

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Lt. Col. Jeff Kroese (right foreground), an IMA attached to the Secretary of the Air Force Acquisitions office, meets with Major General Kamal Barzanji (left center), Commander of the Iraqi Air Force and his staff. (Courtesy photo)

IMAs working for a secure Iraq

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims

HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

(Editor's note: Currently there are more than 85 individual mobilization augmentees deployed around the world in support of the global war on terrorism. Below is just one of the many stories of how IMAs are helping win this war.)

One of the first things on the agenda to help ensure a more secure Iraq is to get their military properly equipped and up to par; several individual mobilization augmentees are doing just that.

Lt. Col. Jeff Kroese, an IMA attached to the Secretary of the Air Force Acquisitions office, recently returned from a six-month deployment to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

He was assigned to the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq, at the Phoenix Base forward operating base, inside the International Zone. MN-STC-I is charged with reconstituting the

Iraqi Security Forces. Lieutenant Colonel Kroese's position required a background in U.S. Security Assistance/Foreign Military Sales, also known as FMS, programs. He was tagged for the requirement because he worked SA/FMS programs for many years at Electronic Systems Center-Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

At MNSTC-I he worked directly with Iraqi Ministry of Defense officials, Joint Headquarters officers (in particular the Iraqi Air Force HQ) and other Iraqi military officers to purchase equipment and set up training through U.S. security assistance channels.

"When I went to Iraq, I thought I'd be part of a larger FMS organization in Baghdad," said Colonel Kroese. "As it turned out, the organization was just myself and one other individual; we started the first US-Iraqi FMS cases and set up an FMS cell that will be one of the long-term legacies of MNSTC-I's work over there."

See "Iraq" on Page 4

Season's Greetings

Holiday message from the top

By Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley

Commander, Air Force Reserve Command

WASHINGTON – As the holiday season and another year approach, let us take time to consider what is really important – family and friends. During this time of year, we tend to hold our families a little closer, realizing that what we take for granted can change in an instant. We need to remember our friends who have endured great sacrifices or those who have suffered great loss on the Gulf Coast.

It is your realization of what is important, coupled with your



dedication to duty, that enables you to serve our great nation so well. You know the price of freedom and you are willing to pay it. I salute those who have deployed in harm's way and supported the Global War on Terrorism, as well as those who have worked so hard to assist with hurricane rescue and relief.

As in the past, we face new challenges in 2006 – aircraft conversions, participation in air and space expeditionary force deployments and mission changes to name a few. I am confident you will once again do our country proud.

Jan and I wish you and yours happy holidays and a safe, joyous New Year. We are proud of you and what you do for America. (AFRC News Service)

America Supports You: Group links GIs to families for holidays

By Sgt. Sara Wood,

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – This holiday season, military members serving overseas will have a chance to send their love to their families in a very special way, thanks to a Denver-based nonprofit organization.

Operation Hope, a program started two and a half years ago by the Beacon of Hope Outreach Center, is launching a service called Home for the Holidays. This service allows military men and women serving overseas to register their families for gifts, said Leo Pacheco, president and executive director of Beacon of Hope Outreach Center.

Servicemembers can register their families via the Operation Hope Web site, and their children's names will then be put on a giving tree under a partnership with Toys R' Us and Amazon.com, Pacheco said. The gifts will be purchased and donated by other people, and Operation Hope will ship them to the families as a gift from the servicemember, he said. A special gift basket will be shipped to the spouse along with the presents, he added.

Included in the package will be a disposable camera for the family to use to record the holiday, Pacheco said. When the camera

is full, Operation Hope will develop the pictures and send them to the servicemember, he said.

The Home for the Holidays service was designed to help support military families and make the stressful times of deployments a little easier, Pacheco said.

"We know that it's a very difficult thing when you are deployed and separated from your family," he said.

Operation Hope provides many other services to military members and their families. It was originally started as a program to send care packages to military members, Pacheco said, but it has now expanded and added other services.

Operation Hope gives aid and support to military families in the form of food, clothing, toys and other things, Pacheco said. The organization still sends care packages as well.

There are about 450 servicemembers whom Operation Hope has adopted, he said, and they receive packages and letters on a regular basis.

Volunteers are the driving force behind Operation Hope, Pacheco said. Most are from the Denver area, but schools, churches and other groups across the country have

helped the organization by conducting drives to collect items for care packages, he said. The supportive response from civilians has been a very pleasant surprise for him, he said.

"I think the most amazing thing, that we did not expect, is how very supportive civilians are across the United States," he said. "I think one of the messages that they have all wanted to express the most is how very supportive we are of our military and that's why they do this."

Operation Hope is a member of America Supports You, a nationwide program launched by the Defense Department to recognize citizens' support for our military men and women and communicate that support to members of the armed forces at home and abroad. Pacheco said he heard about America Supports You from other nonprofit organizations and had to join because of the network it provides for groups with similar goals.

"The great thing is, they're linking all of us together and making it possible for families and members of the military to have access to all of the programs that are out there," he said. For more information, visit <http://www.bhoc.us/>

Air Reserve Personnel

UPDATE

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims

ACC IMAs converge in Denver for Conference

Above - Lt. Col. Brad Montgomery, an individual mobilization augmentee attached to 2nd Services Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., speaks with Master Sgt. Pam O'Briant, an IMA attached to 20th Civil Engineer Squadron, Shaw AFB, S.C.

Right - Senior Master Sgt. John Horton, an individual mobilization augmentee attached to 99th Combat Training Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., shares a laugh with Senior Airman Janice Pagan, an IMA attached to the 820th Security Forces Group, Moody AFB, Ga.

The group of IMAs met for the 2005 Air Combat Command IMA Conference in Denver, Colo. More than 200 IMAs converged on the city Nov. 2-5 to discuss a wide range of issues in the IMA program and learn more about benefits available to them.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims

USAFR Enlisted High Year Tenure Program update

By Wanda Heath

Air Reserve Personnel Center Separations Division

The Enlisted High Year Tenure was designed to improve grade ratios, ensure sustained promotion opportunity for lower graded enlisted personnel, and increase readiness by providing a force fit for the rigors of war.

The program limits participation in the selected reserve and the participating individual ready reserve programs to a total of 33 years creditable service for military pay (or pay date) for all USAFR enlisted members. Per Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, Air Force Reserve Command Vice Commander, in a memorandum dated Oct. 13, 2005, the decision was announced to discontinue the Current Year Temporary High Year Tenure Program. All enlisted members remain eligible for consideration of extension of HYTD under Air Force Instruction 36-2612. In accordance with AFI 36-2612, Chapter 8, IMA enlisted members are eligible to apply for a one-time, 3-year continuation waiver beyond the 33 year maximum HYT date.

For an IMA the waiver approval authority is the MAJCOM commander and those centrally managed programs, such as Medical - SG/Legal - JA and Chaplain - HC, the IMA program manager is the approval authority.

For more information, contact HQ ARPC/DPPS, Separations Division, at 1-800-525-0102.

Web lets reservists track education progress

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) -- Air Force reservists can now track their education progress, request transcripts and update personal education information on the Web. Going through the Air Force Portal -- and accessing the Virtual Education Center's Web site at <https://afvec.langlely.af.mil> -- saves reservists time and money. Because now they will be able to perform some tasks previously done by their military personnel flight. This transformation of customer service is the result of Air Force Reserve Command joining the active-duty Air Force Automated Education Management System. Under the system, reserve education and training offices have access to the same services as the active-duty counterparts.

Unit reservists can learn more about the new system from wing education and training offices. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

IMAs should verify points are credited to current retention/retirement year

By Sue Deardorff

Air Reserve Personnel Center
Directorate of Personnel Programs

After individual mobilization augmentees have performed active or inactive duty and have been paid, their points will automatically be updated to their current retention/retirement year. If individuals submit for pay late (months or even years after the duty was performed) and the duty days fall within their previous retention/retirement year, the points will have to be adjusted to their record.

This process is not automatic. Since adjusting late points is not an automatic process, their points may be lost. Lost points may result in a year of unsatisfactory service for IMAs until they take steps to fix

their record. To correct their record, IMAs need to mail or FAX the Points Management Branch a copy of their leave and earnings statement showing IMAs were paid for the active or inactive duty.

How about duty performed for nonpaid points? After IMAs have performed the active or inactive duty for points only, they need to submit their form to their military personnel flight if the IMAs are unit assigned or to the Points Management Branch if they are IMAs.

Remember, this is not an automatic process. Late submission of these forms may lead to a year of unsatisfactory service. Be aware, when the Points Management Branch receives late forms, they usually verify the dates of duty with the IMAs unit or Program Manager's office. People

should save themselves the aggravation of having their record show they are not participating and then having to take the steps to get their record corrected by submitting forms for pay in a timely fashion.

IMAs who have performed active or inactive duty, submitted for pay on time, have been paid for duty and want to verify the points that are showing in their record can go to the Virtual MPF website at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/> and pull up their point's record.

The date of participation, type of duty and amount of points will be posted to the IMAs current retention/retirement year.

IMAs can pull up their point's record; however, the date of participation, type of duty and amount of points earned should be posted to their current retention/retirement year. If after everything is done and IMAs still see a problem with their record, they should call their MPF or supervisor. Chances are they can locate the problem and get it taken care of in a fairly expeditious manner. Contact the Points Management Branch at 1-800-525-0102 for more information.

Air Force issues headphone guidance for PT uniforms

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - Air Force officials issued guidance for the wear of headphones while wearing the official physical training uniform. Airmen dressed in the PT uniform are authorized to wear headphones while participating in personal fitness and other off-duty activities said officials at the Air Force Personnel Center. However, headphones cannot be worn in formation, during organized unit physical training sessions or while performing official duties. Commanders may further deny headphone wear if conditions are determined to be

unsafe, such as people running near vehicle traffic where such wear would limit hearing or awareness of surroundings. They may also disallow headphone use because of operational requirements, officials said. Air Force component commanders will coordinate wear policy with the combatant commander to ensure uniformity for Airmen deployed to joint environments.

For more information, Airmen can contact their commander's support staff or base military personnel flight. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

IRAQ from Page 1

He spent a lot of time working a sustainment program for the new squadron of C-130's. He also dealt with equipment and training for the Iraqi Special Ops Battalion. During his tour, Colonel Kroese worked extensively with Major General Kamal Barzanji, Commander of the Iraqi Air Force and his staff.

The Air Expeditionary Force position Colonel Kroese was filling in Iraq has thus far only been filled by IMAs, even though the AEF slot does not require an IMA. His predecessor in the position was Lt. Col. Jim Harper, an IMA from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Colonel Kroese's replacement is Major Marc Berkstresser, an IMA from Los Angeles Air Force Station, Calif. He has carried on where Colonel Kroese left off and recently extended his stay in Iraq to help see the process through.

ARPC Selection Board Secretariat Introduces automated Letters to the Board

Each officer meeting a promotion board has the opportunity to communicate with their board by letter

Every year, approximately 1,000 Reserve officers take advantage of this option to provide information to the board. The Selection Board Secretariat has made this a web-based process.

To access this feature, go to the Officer Promotions part of the ARPC Web Page <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/promotions/officer/default.asp> and click on the "Online transactions, Letters to the Board" link. Members who do not already have an account will have to set one up in a quick procedure. The Letters to the Board feature uses a "fill-in-the-blanks" screen to enter and format the letter, electronically sign the letter, and submit the letter to the board. It eliminates problems with format, authenticity, long mail time, lost letters, wrong addresses, readability, and allows board access from anywhere in the world. It is just one of many ARPC innovations to service our customers 24/7.

Above and Beyond:

Technician saves government nearly half a million dollars

By Cindy Dewey

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

DENVER - What started out as a normal duty day for Sara Simms, turned into a savings to the U.S. government of \$424,191.78, and a surprise award for her.

During a data review, Ms. Simms who works as a lead human resources assistant, data verification branch, Directorate of Personnel Services Delivery, here, noticed an unusual annotation on the record of a Reserve member. His status indicated "Dropped from the Rolls" as a Reserve officer of the United States, effective Jan. 30, 2003, as a result of being convicted of a first degree felony.

After further research, Ms. Simms discovered that on Jan. 31, 2003 this member

had been transferred to an unassigned Reserve section for research, but he was still collecting Voluntary Separation Incentive payments. She continued to research the member's history and worked with the Air Force Reserve Personnel Directorate to get the member separated. She also pursued the VSI payments and discovered that as a result of the conviction he should not have been receiving payments. Ms. Simms contacted the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Cleveland, who then forwarded the information to DFAS-Denver to create a debt for the payments already made to the member in the amount of \$35,254.18.

Had this error not been corrected, DFAS officials stated he would have continued to receive annual payments for twenty years totaling \$388,937.60. As a result of Ms. Simms' vigilance, the debt to be recovered and the loss avoidance of all future payments saved the government a total of \$424,191.78.

Senior Master Sgt. Janet Riley, Chief Individual Ready Reserve Program Management Branch, recognized the superb performance and went about finding a way to reward Ms. Simms for her "above-and-beyond" approach to the situation. After researching AFI

36-1004, Managing the Civilian Recognition Program, Sergeant Riley determined that the actions of Ms. Simms qualified her to be submitted for a Special Act or Service Award.

A Special Act or Service Award is a monetary award which recognizes General Schedule employees (individual or group) for nonrecurring special achievements.

The award is granted as a result of superior accomplishments resulting in verifiable, significant, and tangible benefits to the government.

First line supervisors must submit the nomination within 60 days of the event, by preparing an AF Form 1768, Staff Summary Sheet. The nomination describes the achievement and recommends the amount of the award. The ARPC commander, as an installation commander equivalent, can authorize up to a \$10,000 award. The amount is based on 10 percent of the projected first-year dollar savings.



Photo by Donald Smith Jr.

Sara Simms' diligence as a lead technician in the Directorate of Personnel Services Delivery, saved the government nearly \$500,000.

Ms. Simms was presented her Special Act award and a check for more than \$3,500 for her efforts at the commander's staff meeting, Oct. 18. Ms. Simms says she was shocked after receiving the award for her work.

"This came as a surprise, completely," She said. "Wow! Just for being nosey. All I asked myself was 'what does 'dropped from the rolls' really mean?'"

"I pull rosters each month based on certain error conditions in Military Personnel Data System. The RZ file (where this Reservist had been assigned) is where members are assigned when no one knows where they belong. It is our job to figure that out and make sure they are assigned to the proper file," said Ms. Simms.

"I am extremely lucky that Sergeant Riley took the time to make sure I was recognized. She has been a great supervisor and mentor in many areas and this has proven to me that it is important to reward your people for the extra work they do. What a great tool this can be to encourage technicians to go above and beyond and be accountable for their work," she said.

IMA helps in hurricane aftermath

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Richard Keabler, an individual mobilization augmentee attached to the 88th Security Forces Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, was deployed Sept. 9 by his civilian employer, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in Louisville, Ky. to St. Charles Parish, La. to aid in the relief efforts. He along with 21 other deputies convoyed down with 11 vehicles and supplies.

They worked with the St. Charles Parish deputies on patrol, crowd control as well as handing out food and water. They also traveled to New Orleans and took much needed supplies to the brave men and women of the New Orleans Police Department. "I have served in many areas during my military career but nothing or nowhere I have ever been could come close to what these dedicated officers had to endure," said Sergeant Keabler.

"Officers slept in the parking lot of what is now called "Fort Wal-Mart" while foot patrols looked for snipers who were firing on them," he said.

He said the sixth precinct which was called Fort Apache was also in deplorable conditions. The stench was terrible, as was the sight of police cars lost to looters. Officers were forced to wear whatever they could as many had lost their homes and everything in it.

"I observed a N.O. PD Sergeant wearing a police shirt with his sergeant strips, cut off shorts and an ankle holster with his off duty weapon, all else had been lost to the flood.

Help was arriving from all over the country in the form of personnel and supplies, which was a great relief to the officers.

Sergeant Keabler said that if anyone wants to see dedication they should look at these New Orleans officers, who don't know when or if they will ever be paid or even if they have jobs when this is all over. "If anyone ever asks why America is so strong, tell them its dedication," said Sergeant Keabler.



Master Sgt. Richard Keabler assisted with relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. (Courtesy photo)

DOD officials announce one-year open enrollment for SBP

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Department of Defense officials announced Aug. 19 that military retirees, who opted out of some or all their Survivor Benefit Plan coverage, will have another opportunity to elect coverage during a one-year open enrollment period that began Oct. 1 and runs through Sept. 30, 2006.

Upon a retiree's death, the plan provides an annuity of up to 55 percent of the military retired pay.

Until recently, the annuity for a surviving spouse age 62 or older was reduced to 35 percent to reflect the availability of Social Security benefits. This reduction will phase out by April 2008, and the full 55-percent benefit will be paid regardless of the spouse's age in accordance with the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

Current nonparticipants will be able to elect any coverage they could have elected previously upon retiring from active service or upon receiving notification of eligibility for Reserve retired pay at age 60.

If they have a reduced election, they may increase their coverage. A participant with child-only coverage may add a spouse or former spouse to their coverage, and a person may add child coverage to spouse or former spouse coverage. But those who took coverage and later elected to terminate that coverage are not eligible to make an open enrollment election.

Open enrollment elections require a lump sum buy-in premium as well as future monthly premiums. The lump sum equates to all back premiums, plus interest, from the date of original eligibility to

make an election plus any amount needed to protect the Military Retirement Fund. The latter amount applies almost exclusively to those paying fewer than seven years of back payments.

The lump sum buy-in premium can be paid over a two-year period. Monthly premiums for spouse or former spouse coverage will be 6.5 percent of the coverage elected, the same premium paid by those currently enrolled. Reserve component members under age 60 and not yet eligible for retired pay do not pay back premiums or interest, but must pay a monthly plan premium "add-on" once their retired pay starts.

Elections are effective the first day of the month after the election is received, but no earlier than Oct. 1. An election is void if the retiree dies in the two years following an election and all premiums are refunded to the designated survivor.

To make an open enrollment election, a retiree can complete and submit a DD Form 2656-9, "Survivor Benefit Plan and Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan Open Enrollment Election." The form is available electronically at www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2656-9.pdf.

For assistance with the form, people can contact the Air Reserve Personnel Center Entitlements section at (800-525-0102).

Retirees can mail the completed form to the address specified on the form. Applicants will be formally notified of their cost and have 30 days from the date of the notice to cancel the election by notifying the Defense Finance and Accounting Service or the reserve component, as applicable, in writing.

Briefs

Web-Based Orders

Individual mobilization augmentees have a new way to get military orders.

Air Reserve Order Writing System-Reserve, a Web-based system, began Oct. 1 for IMAs. It allows these reservists to initiate the orders process from any computer anywhere in the world. Air Force Reserve Command units could start using AROWS-R as early as Nov. 1, said command officials.

If people have questions or need more information about the new system, they can call the help desk at DSN 497-0522, commercially at 478-327-0522 or toll-free at 800-223-1784, Ext. 0522. They can also use Ext. 1455 or 1258.

Omega's contract ending

ARPC's contract with Omega World Travel expires Dec. 31. After that date, IMAs will need to obtain airline tickets through their nearest military base or federal agency with a government contracted ticket office. IMAs who have a government travel card can call Omega for reservations as long as their travel will be completed prior to Dec. 31.

IMAs who do not have a government travel card also need to provide a copy of their orders to Omega, and call for reservations prior to Nov. 30. Again, all travel must be completed prior to Dec. 31.

Voluntary resignation of commission

USAFR commissioned officers not serving on extended active duty have the right to resign his/her appointment whenever they consider the action appropriate if they have no pending obligation. IMAs must submit their resignation through the Program Manager for endorsement.

Resignations must include name, grade, social security number, current address, and signature. E-mailed resignations are not accepted unless an original document with signature has been scanned and attached. Faxed copies can be sent to DSN 926-6979 or commercial FAX 303-676-6979.

Visit the Air Reserve Personnel Center website at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil> for a copy of the Tender of Resignation letter. For more information, contact HQ ARPC/DPPS, Separations Division, at 1-800-525-0102.

Officers should check correspondence course points

All officers should be checking their records at least six months prior to a promotion board to see if their points are all accounted for—including Developmental Education.

When members check their promotion brief for other items like decorations, advanced academic degrees and performance reports, don't forget to check point records. Members can access their point record night or day on the Virtual MPF. If members have completed Air War College or Air Command and Staff College by correspondence, the points should be posted to the correct

retention/retirement year in their record. If members do not see points for courses they have completed, mail or FAX a copy of each volume's completion certificate (indicating course study hours or points credited), to ARPC Point Management Branch at DSN 926-6893 or commercial 303-676-6893

ARPC stops uniform issue

Uniform Issuance is no longer handled by ARPC effective Oct. 1, 2005, all uniform requests should go to the Readiness Management Group attention Senior Master Sgt. Cynthia Mollock at 1-800-223-1784, ext. 72282, Commercial (478) 327-2282 or DSN 497-2282, fax (478) 327-2290 or DSN 497-2290.

Air Force Climate Survey

The Air Force is surveying Airmen and civilian employees to see how they feel about leadership, supervision, training, recognition and other aspects of the service.

The 2005 Air Force Climate Survey runs through Nov. 23, and Air Force Reserve Command leaders want everyone in the command to participate. The survey can be completed online at <https://afclimatesurvey.af.mil/> anytime during the survey period from either a government or personal computer.

Advanced JPME Program

Correspondence course points are now awarded for completion of the Advanced Joint Professional Military Education program. The Joint Staff has recommended 39 correspondence course points be awarded for completion of the 117-hour non-resident instruction.

Graduates from AJPME classes 01-01 through 05-03 have been submitted for the point credit; however graduates should check their vMPF records to ensure their credit has been posted. Graduates from classes 05-04 through current courses need to fax their completion certificate to ARPC Point Management Branch at DSN 926-6893 or commercial 303-676-6893. Members must include their social security number.

Discount airfare for military families

United Airlines is now offering reduced fares for active duty and Reserve members of the Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force and National Guard.

In addition, servicemembers' spouses and dependent children are also eligible. These special fares are not available at the United Airlines website.

To purchase the special fares, servicemembers should contact United Reservations at 1-800-241-6522 and identify themselves as eligible for military fares.

All passengers eligible for these and other military fares must carry proper identification.

Servicemembers can travel with these special fares through Jan. 31. For more information on Military Travel Specials visit www.military.com/Travel